

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated April 20, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 1 is hereby amended. Accordingly, claims 1-16 and 18-20 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 13-16 and 18-20.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yoshihara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,016) in view of Makino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,570,554). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 is patentable over Yoshihara et al. in view of Makino et al. in that claim 1 recites a combination of element including, for example, "a signal processing circuit connected to an output of the data input driver and to the light sources, wherein the signal processing circuit directly controls a luminance of each of the light sources." Yoshihara et al. in view of Makino et al. fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, display control means 51 of Makino et al., identified by the Examiner as the signal processing circuit, is not connected to an output of the data input driver. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-12, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable over Yoshihara et al. in view of Makino et al.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

Application No. 09/988,650
Response dated September 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated April 20, 2005

Docket No. 8733.536.00-US

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 20, 2005

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